GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3210
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2003
SAFETY OF RAILWAY PROPERTY
T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has sought active cooperation of the State Governments in protecting its property and tracks from the dangers posed by militants and other who might target them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken by the Government to protect the railway property and safety of Passengers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At a very high level meeting between the State Govts. Intelligence Agencies and RPF, the need for advance Intelligence was emphasized. It has been decided that "actionable intelligence" will be shared by the State Govts. and Intelligence Agencies with RPF (Railways) for necessary preventive action. This has been further followed up with States' DGPs and Chief Secretaries. Minister of Railways has also addressed to the Chief Ministers of concerned States for their cooperation in ensuring safety of the Railway system.

(c) In each Division of the Zonal Railways, Committees have been formed to identify sections under threat, in consultation with State Police, and introduce security patrolling of the tracks- as State Governments are not in a position to take this preventive measure. The State Govts. have been sensitized further, after the North Bihar incidents on 15.7.2003. Two Bills have been placed before the Parliament to suitably Amend the RPF Act and the Railways Act, so that investigation and prosecution of day- to-day hindrances faced by the Railways and passengers are dealt with by RPF. This will enable GRP to focus on serious offences. This authority, once vested in RPF, will also make RPF more effective in playing a role in the areas of securing passengers and passenger areas, in addition to securing of Railway property.